

GOVERNMENT OF TALANGANA  
ABSTRACT

Forest Conservation Act – Proposal for diversion of 231.84 Ha of Forest land in Chatakonda Reserve Forest of Kothagudem Division, for Koyagudem OC-II (Phase-II) Coal Mining Project, in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited located in Khammam district – Final (stage-II) approval – Accorded.

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ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.22

Dated.01.06.2017.

Read the following:

1. From PCCF, A.P, Hyd., Lr.Rc.No.3830/2011-F1,  
Dated:01.06.2013.
2. Govt. Letter No. 6116/FOR.I (1)/2012, EFS&T (For.I) Dept.  
Dated:Dt.12.11.2013.
3. From Govt. of India, MoEF, New Delhi Lr.No. F.No.8-22/2014-FC  
Dt.16.03.2015.
4. From PCCF, T.S., Hyd., Lr.Rc.No.3830/2011/FCA-1/TS,  
Dated:23.02.2016.
5. Govt. Letter No.6116/FOR.I (1)/2012, EFS&T (For.I) Dept.,  
Dated:04.03.2016.
6. From Govt. of India, MoEF, New Delhi, Lr.No. F.No.8-22/2014-FC  
dt. 18.04.2017.

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O R D E R

In his letter 1<sup>st</sup> read above, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), A.P., Hyderabad has furnished a proposal for diversion of 231.84 Ha of Forest land in Chatakonda Reserve Forest of Kothagudem Division, for Koyagudem OC-II (Phase-II) Coal Mining Project, in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited located in Khammam district.

2. In the letter 2<sup>nd</sup> read above, the proposal in para-1 above was forwarded to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi for granting approval under section -2 of the Forest (C) Act, 1980.

3. In their letter 3<sup>rd</sup> read above, the Ministry of Environment & Forests GoI have granted in-principle (Stage-I) approval for the above proposal, subject to fulfillment of the conditions stipulated thereof.

4. In the letter 5<sup>th</sup> read above, Government of Telangana have sent the report of compliance on the conditions stipulated by GoI, as submitted by the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana State, Hyderabad in his letter 4<sup>th</sup> read above, to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi for according necessary approval.

5. In their letter 6<sup>th</sup> read above, the Central Government have granted final approval for the proposal in para 1 above, under Section 2 of the Forest (C) Act, 1980, subject to fulfillment of the conditions stipulated therein.

6. Accordingly, Government hereby accord **final (Stage-II)** approval for diversion of 231.84 Ha of Forest land in Chatakonda Reserve Forest of Kothagudem Division, for Koyagudem OC-II (Phase-II) Coal Mining Project, in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited located in Khammam district under section-2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

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- (ii) Few identified compensatory afforestation sites in degraded forest land was not suitable for plantation, accordingly, the Regional Office, Chennai was requested to inspect the site identified for Compensatory Afforestation for the proposal and report the suitability of degraded forest land for Compensatory Afforestation and the Regional Office, Chennai, after DSS analysis and the Google Maps along with site inspection, recommended that the moderately dense forest may be excluded for the planting of additional area in the Compartment No.311. Therefore, the total available area suitable for planting shall be as below: -

Compt.No.	Available CA area suitable for planting (Ha)
312 & 307	130 (Open Forest-129, Non-Forest-1)
311	79 (Open Forest-72, Non-Forest-7)
310	62 (Open Forest-41, Non-Forest-21)
293	208 (Open Forest-199, Non-Forest-9)
<b>Total area in (Ha)</b>	<b>479</b>

Thus, the required compensatory afforestation of 464 ha. from the suitable area of 479 ha. as stated above in lieu of the forest land proposed to be diverted shall be raised within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation, with the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency;

- (iii) Following activities shall be ensured by the State Govt. as per approved plan at the project cost:
- (a) Appropriate mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams;
  - (b) Planting or adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion;
  - (c) Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls along the contour to arrest sliding down of the excavated material;
  - (d) Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching so as to ensure that the angles of repose at any given place is less than 28o; and
  - (e) Strict adherence to the prescribed top soil management.
- (iv) The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- (v) The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986. before work for the project is initiated;
- (vi) The State Govt. shall ensure the implementation of approved Wildlife Conservation Plan to mitigate impact of project on Kinnersani Wildlife sanctuary and other habitats of wildlife located in and around the forest land proposed to be diverted at the cost of user agency;

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- (vii) The State Govt. shall ensure that each family being displaced from the project site and settles on non-forest land to prevent illegal occupation/encroachment of the forest land by them. Apart from taking other measures to achieve the said objective, as a measure to discourage the project affected families from encroachment on the forest land, payment of annuity for a period of at-least five years at the rate of the minimum wage payable to the unskilled person for 200 person-days per annum to each adult member of the project affected families, on receipt of a certificate signed by a forest officer not below the rank of a Range Officer having jurisdiction over the area where such person has settled after displacement from the project site. In addition, the User Agency shall track location of each displaced family and ensure that none of them encroach/occupy forest land. The State Govt. shall implement the approved R&R plan at the cost of the user agency. In support of compliance to this condition at least for five years from the date of taking possession of the forest land, the User Agency shall submit **an annual certificate to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana that none of the persons displaced from the project land has encroached/settled on the forest land during the year;**
- (viii) The user agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall erect chain-link fence of suitable gauge to a height of 2.0 m around the safety zone area to prevent entry of the wildlife into the mining area;
- (ix) The mined area (dugout pits) shall be refilled with fertile soil and bench terracing be done, if required, besides raising plantation with tall plants of native species at the cost of the user agency as a part of reclamation of the mined area;
- (x) Boundary of the individual mines and safety zone shall be demarcated by erecting RCC pillars to avoid disputes among the lease holders as well as to check encroachment into adjoining forests;
- (xi) The State Govt. ensure that the suitable bridges/quality roads shall be constructed at all low lying spots being frequently damaged due to movement of lorries with heavy loads of coal at the cost of the user agency;
- (xii) User agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
- (xiii) Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area [7.5 meters strip all along the outer boundary or the mining lease area as recommended by the state govt.] shall be done within three years at the project cost as per approved scheme. Besides this afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere measuring one & a half times the area under safety zone shall also be done at the project cost;
- (xiv) The period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act. 1957, as amended or Rules framed there under;

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- (xv) The User Agency in consultation with State forest Department shall under take gap planting and soil & moisture conservation acclivities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.4), if any, located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease;
- (xvi) The State Govt. and the User agency shall ensure de-silting of the village tanks and other water bodies located within live km from the mine lease boundary for which GPS coordinates given so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies, whenever required, preferably within five years;
- (xvii) The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation there of shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Odisha and the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office (Southern Eastern Zone), Chennai. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;
- (xviii) The State Govt. and the User Agency shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (xix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas;
- (xx) The boundary of the mining lease and safety zone shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- (xxi) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- (xxii) Any other condition that the Regional Office (Southern Zone), Chennai of this Ministry and the State Govt. may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- (xxiii) All other conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval for which the user agency has submitted undertakings shall be complied with;
- (xxiv) The User Agency shall submit annual report on compliance to conditions stipulated in this clearance and also to the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval for which the user agency submitted undertakings, to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;

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(xxv) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines and Hon'ble Court's order(s) pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Telangana State, Hyderabad shall take necessary action, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF TELANGANA)

B.R. MEENA  
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),  
Telangana State, Hyderabad.

**Copy to:**

M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and User Agency.

The Director, Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110 003.

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//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER